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## **Federal Budget 2011-12 is peoples friendly and pro-poor, says Ms. Farzana Raja**

**Says the President and Prime Mister of Pakistan have continued policies of providing relief to poor, no cut in BISP funds is significant in this regard**

**Rs. 65 billion have been allocated for BISP and it could be increased further as per requirements**

**ISLAMABAD:** Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Farzana Raja while commenting on 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive budget of the present democratic government led by Pakistan Peoples party, said that keeping in view the present economic conditions of the country, it could rightly be termed as a pro-people budget. She added further that it is quite hearting that the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan have expressed their firm resolve that the steps aim at providing relief to poor of the country would be continued. Hence, she said, no cut for the budgetary allocation for BISP is vital step towards this policy. She said that Rs. 65 billion have been allocated for BISP and it could be increased further as per requirements.

While commenting on the salient features of Federal Budget 2011-12, Ms. Farzana Raja said that the democratic government, despite financial constraints, has increased the salaries of government employees up to 15 % and 15 to 20% in the pensions. The step reflects that the government is aware of the difficulties, being faced by the people of Pakistan.

Ms. Farzana Raja said that growing inflation is a major issue which was needed to be dealt immediately. Therefore, she said, the decision of brining the inflation down to 9 % from the present 12% would have long lasting impacts. She said that besides decrease in GST ratio and various duties, the tax net is also being increased and these steps would be resulted as decreased load on common man as well as existing tax-payers. It will also help country achieve economic self sufficiency.

Chairperson BISP said that the democratic government, during the last fiscal year, had to confront with the devastations caused by flood, hike of hike prices in the international market and a very costly war against terrorism. Therefore, keeping in view the overall economic scenario, the budget could be termed as another success for the current government.